

28. (previously presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein said droplets are heated in an oxidizing atmosphere.

29. (previously presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein said atmosphere comprises oxygen.

30. (currently amended) A method for making mixed-metal particles, comprising:
~~preparing a solution selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from Group IIB, a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising Cu and at least one metal selected from a group including In and Ga Group IIIB, or and a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising In and Sn at least one metal selected from each of Groups IIIB and IVB;~~

forming droplets of the solution; and

heating the droplets to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form mixed-metal particles,

wherein said mixed-metal particles comprise a non-oxide phase and have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.

31. (previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the mixed-metal particles comprise a metal oxide phase and a non-oxide phase.

32. (previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the mixed-metal particles are multinary metallic particles.

33. (previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the mixed-metal particles comprise at least one phase substantially enveloping at least one other phase

34. (currently amended) A method according to claim 30, wherein the particles comprise Cu and In ~~and have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.~~

35. (previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the particles comprise Cu, In and Ga.

36. (previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein the droplets are heated in a reducing atmosphere.

37. (previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein the atmosphere comprises hydrogen.

38. (currently amended) A method for making mixed-metal particles, comprising:
preparing a solution selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from Group IIB, a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising Cu and at least one metal selected from Group IIIB, and a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising at least one metal selected from each of Groups IIIB and IVB;

forming droplets of the solution; and
heating the droplets to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form mixed-metal particles,

wherein said mixed-metal particles comprise multiple metal oxide phases and have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.

39. (previously presented) A method according to claim 38, wherein the mixed-metal particles comprise at least one phase substantially enveloping at least one other phase

40. (currently amended) A method according to claim 38, wherein the particles comprise Cu and In ~~and have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.~~

41. (previously presented) A method according to claim 38, wherein the particles comprise Cu, In and Ga.

42. (previously presented) A method according to claim 38, wherein said droplets are heated in a non-oxidizing atmosphere.

43. (previously presented) A method according to claim 42, wherein said atmosphere comprises nitrogen.

44. (previously presented) A method according to claim 38, wherein said droplets are heated in a substantially inert atmosphere.

45. (previously presented) A method according to claim 44, wherein said atmosphere comprises nitrogen.

46. (currently amended) A method for making mixed-metal particles, comprising:
preparing a solution selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from the group Cu, In and Ga;
forming droplets of the solution; and
heating the droplets to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form mixed-metal particles,
wherein said mixed-metal particles comprise multiple metal oxide phases and have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.

47. (previously presented) A method according to claim 46, wherein the mixed-metal particles comprise at least one phase substantially enveloping at least one other phase

48. (canceled)

49. (previously presented) A method according to claim 46, wherein said droplets are heated in a substantially inert atmosphere.

50. (previously presented) A method according to claim 46, wherein the droplets are heated in a reducing atmosphere.